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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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30 October 1968

97-379

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5-25-00

U.C.

SUBJECT: GDR Participation in the Invasion of Czechoslovakia

1. The participation of the GDR in the invasion of Czechoslovakia was reported by the Czech government, the CSSR Communist Party, and, as recently as 16 October 1968, by Premier Kosygin himself.

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small combat units, liaison elements, and support personnel actually crossed into Czechoslovakia.

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2. Although two East German divisions -- the 7th Tank and 11th Motorized Rifle -- did move close to the Czech border and were apparently under the operational control of the GSFG 20th Guards Army and 1st Guards Tank Army, respectively, which did move into Czechoslovakia, the East German division field headquarters always remained north of the border. [REDACTED] did indicate that some small East German tactical elements were in Czechoslovakia during the period 21-23 August 1968. Subsequent reports indicated their withdrawal by 23 August. These units probably came from one or both of the East German divisions, which remained in the reserve or support role during the invasion.

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3. In addition, both divisions were under national control of the East German Military District III, an element of which was first detached to Legnica, Poland, and subsequently relocated to Prague on 25 August.

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4. [REDACTED] any East German tactical air force or air defense elements participated in the invasion or its aftermath. However, EGAF transport aircraft did fly into Czechoslovakia during the period - 23-31 August

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5. It is concluded that major East German forces were associated with the Czech invasion, that small tactical elements crossed into Czechoslovakia and then quickly withdrew, and that small liaison and support elements entered and remained in Czechoslovakia for a considerable period afterward.

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